

Serial No. 10/039,452 (K-C 17725)  
Response to Office Action dated 11/18/2003

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 – 17 (canceled)

B<sup>+</sup> 18. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) comprising an absorbent (66), a cover (62), and a liquid impermeable baffle (64), the absorbent article being configured for disposition within [[the]] a vestibule (42) of a female wearer and having a lower surface, a lower surface of the baffle forming at least a portion of the lower surface of the absorbent article, the lower surface of the absorbent article being adaptable adapted to define a finger-receiving area of dimensions sufficient to at least temporarily receive at least a portion of at least one finger of the wearer; in a manner that allows at least that portion of a finger to be positioned substantially parallel to a principal axis of the absorbent article  
wherein  
the cover and the baffle have peripheries which extend outward beyond a periphery of the absorbent and are peripherally joined together to form an edge (84);  
the absorbent article includes first (70) and second (72) end regions, and a central region (74) disposed between the first and second end regions;  
the absorbent article includes a principal longitudinal axis (L) and a principal transverse axis (T);  
the absorbent article is configured to provide a recess (92) formed by folding the absorbent article substantially about the principal longitudinal axis, such folding resulting in the lower surface of the absorbent article having substantially identical halves facing and opposing each other;  
and  
at least one point of juncture (96) is situated within the recess and located on the lower surface of the absorbent article, the point of juncture at least temporarily joining portions of the lower surface of the backsheet on the opposed and facing halves of the lower surface of the article to define the finger-receiving area in a manner that allows at least a distal portion of the at least one finger to be positioned substantially parallel to the principal longitudinal axis.

Claims 19 – 21 (canceled)

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22. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 18, wherein the point of juncture is located on that portion of the lower surface situated in at least one of the end regions of the absorbent article.

23. (original) The absorbent article of claim 22, wherein the point of juncture comprises a discrete point.

24. (withdrawn) The absorbent article of claim 22, wherein the point of juncture comprises a continuous point.

25. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 18, wherein the point of juncture is located on that portion of the lower surface situated in at least the central region of the absorbent article.

26. (original) The absorbent article of claim 25, wherein the point of juncture comprises a discrete point.

27. (withdrawn) The absorbent article of claim 25, wherein the point of juncture comprises a continuous point.

Claims 28 – 51 (canceled)

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